

Canada

CANADIAN COAST GUARD SHIP GORDON REID

The Canadian Coast Guard Ship GORDON REID is named in honour of Gordon Reid Sr., one of the first Native Indians in British Columbia to obtain a certificate of competency as a ship's master. Reid was renowned as one of the best navigators on British Columbia's west coast.

Born into the Heiltsuk Band, in Old Town (Bella Bella) on 17 September 1895, Reid began working on commercial fishing boats when he was ten.

During the 1940's he received his master's certificate and captained a number of packing and seining company boats. At the end of the decade, he bought the "Bertha G", operating her for the next seven years as a seining, trawling and general fishing boat. During the same period, Reid also worked for B.C. Packers, skippering a packer boat.

His nautical skills were in high demand among entrepreneurs trading along the coast because of his familiarity with the coast's commercial ports and his maritime qualifications. Reid also obtained his Steam Engineering Certificate at a young age and for a short period, worked at Namu, as a steam engineer.

When he retired at the age of 78, he still could not stop working. His last job was running the Hyster ferry between Bella Bella and the Millbank Cannery, on Denny Island.

Reid was proud of his culture and renowned as a native historian. You would often find him, surrounded by children, recounting his memories of early life and telling them stories about their people's first encounters with white man's culture.

Reid was also one of the first constables of his village and later became a provincial police officer. He was equally at home in both cultures, a sign of his appreciative and non-judgemental nature and of his firm rooting within his own culture. Gordon Reid died in Vancouver at the age of 94.

The Canadian Coast Guard Ship GORDON REID is stationed in Victoria and helps patrol Canada's 29,000 kilometre Pacific coastline. She carries a staff of six officers and eight crew members and and operates on the lay-day system with a crew change every 28 days. Although not a large ship, her endurance and seaworthinesss make her ideally suited for search and rescue patrols in the rough waters off the west coast of

CCGS GORDON REID Particulars:

Length, Overall	49.95 metres
Length, Waterline	45.00 metres
Breadth, Moulded	11.00 metres
Depth to Main Deck	6.135 metres
Draft	4.9 metres
Light Displacement	776 tonnes
Gross Tonnage	863 GT
Power	3530 kW
Fuel	128.2 tonnes
Cruising Speed	12 knots
Range	2500 nautical miles

British Columbia. She has a range of 2500 nautical miles and can stay at sea for more than a month before having to return to port for supplies.

CCGS GORDON REID is specially-designed for search and rescue duties. Her stern launch ramp allows the ship's fast rescue boat to be launched and recovered in severe weather conditions. The fast rescue boat has a top speed of 50 knots and is constructed for search and rescue duties in rough and treacherous waters.

Once a survivor has been rescued, there is a sick-bay aboard ship, fitted with advanced first aid equipment, to treat injuries. In an emergency, CCGS GORDON REID can accommodate over 40 survivors. Special emphasis has also been placed on the ship's accommodation to minimize crew fatigue on long rescue missions.

The ship has state-of-the-art navigational and search equipment as well as a 400 horsepower bow thruster allowing CCGS GORDON REID to manoeuvre in tight spots. She is also equipped with fire monitors enabling her to fight fires at sea.

Besides her search and rescue duties, CCGS GORDON REID can be called upon to service navigational aids in coastal waters and do pollution prevention work.

The GORDON REID was the first Type 500 Search and Rescue (SAR) ship to be built. The ship was built in 1990 by Versatile Pacific Shipyards Inc. of Victoria. A second Type 500 SAR vessel, CCGS JOHN JACOBSON, was built in 1991. Both ships are 49.95 metres long, 11 metres wide and have a draft of 4.9 metres. The ships can call on four Deutz six cylinder diesel engines to deliver a total of 4800 horsepower for a top speed of 16 knots or a cruising speed of 12 knots.

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Canadian Coast Guard

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Photo: Morgan Hughes